

Those are real! As it's for their great fine friend, such heartache they now feel!
As the Crocodiles all in prayer, throughout the world so prepare . . . for their hero to so kneel . . .

As this day our Hearts Lie Down Under,
As The World and her Animal Kingdom have lost their great thunder, their fine son of wonder!

As The Lions they too so mourn, for this man of love so warm, their Savior . . . as they stop to ponder.

All the Animals are crying, as upon them their tears now lay lying

All because this their fine Hero, their True Champion . . . their True Friend lays dying

All of those sad elephant's ears are drooping, in the oceans . . . the whales, sad songs are crying!

But, Steve you will never be extinct,
Forever in our hearts, in our souls, in our minds, in our memories, you'll live on as of you we so think!

With you, life was all it's crooked up to be . . . with your heart of happiness ever to us such joy did bring.

FULL OUT, from life you never sipped, but drank . . . as how a life should be lived as no doubt,

With the heart of a child, as you lived To So Save The Wild . . . showing us all what living is all about!

Because you loved and so cared, as with the World your Aussie heart of a lion so shared throughout.

You Steve, You Great Big Koala Bear . . . Our Teddy Bear of Love . . . A Ray of Light . . .

A Thing of Joy, Reaching For The Stars . . . What is Right! A Shooting Star, So Very Bright!

You thought you were just a bloke, I think not! . . . God, put you on this earth to bring your light!

To Teach Us!
To So Deep Inside, In All Of Our Hearts To So Reach Us!

To show us all the true meaning of love and life, husband & wife, child or crocodile, you beseeched Us!

Oh Crockeeeee, Oh how you showed us how life should be lived,

As to this our world, and her entire animal kingdom . . . Oh Crockeeeee, the gifts to her you'd give!

You are gone, but not forgotten . . . as forever and a day upon this earth in our hearts you shall live!

For once, you were The King of The Jungle . . .

But, more so . . . A Prince of Love and Peace . . . of kindness, of what it is in our world she so surely needs.

For on this day, with your loss in so many ways, all God's Children and his Animals now for you so bleed.

Because, to our world you never took . . . You Gave!

In your life, and most magnificent family . . . the meaning of love . . . you so portrayed!

As The World & her most beloved Animals you so fought for to save, as was your fine life's crusade.

Steve, today . . . you're reached the Top!
As an Angel in The Army of our Lord, fighting for the destruction of the Animal Kingdom to so stop!

The first thing you will do, is return to earth to that stingray who killed you . . . and let his heart not sob.

But, the hardest pain of all . . .
Is what all of us so saw, how much you loved your family and they so too you!

Knowing, that little girl and boy, and fine wife and loved ones, will together miss such splendid joy . . . You!

But, really you're not gone!
As they will carry you in their hearts from dusk to dawn!

Until, the years pass by . . . and together with tears in eyes . . . in Heaven you'll rejoin and will live on!

Those aren't Crocodile Tears!

Dedicated To A Most Magnificent Man . . . who taught all of The World's Animal Kingdom

A Messenger to all of us from Our Lord, about Love, Life and Living!

Crockeeeee . . . God Bless You Steve, May your Family find peace!

IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH RECOGNIZING PAQUITO D'RIVERA FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN JAZZ AND THE SECOND ANNUAL DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paquito D'Rivera who has been selected as Artistic Director for this year's Duke Ellington Jazz Festival. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we salute the festival's acknowledgement of the contributions made by Latino artists. Paquito D'Rivera is a world-renowned jazz instrumentalist who embodies the diverse soul of today's modern musician. His ability to fuse South American and Caribbean sounds with that of American jazz is creative, unique and inspirational to all of us.

Mr. D'Rivera's proclivity toward music was apparent at a young age. Raised in Cuba, his father was his music instructor. By the age of 10, he was performing with the National Theater Orchestra of Havana. He continued making his mark in Cuba, playing both the clarinet and saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and co-founding the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna and the group Irakere, a Cuban jazz band known for its mixture of Latin sounds and musical improvisation. Irakere impressed jazz enthusiasts across the world with its ground-breaking style, going on to win a Grammy in 1979 for Best Latin Recording.

So that he could fully express his musical talent, Mr. D'Rivera defected to the United States in 1981. With the assistance of fellow jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, he began performing in New York City and released his first album Paquito Blowin in 1981 and Mariel in 1982. The success of these two albums launched him into the national spotlight. His career blossomed and in 1988, Mr. D'Rivera was invited to join the United Nations Orchestra to perform jazz fused with Latin rhythms and sounds.

Paquito D'Rivera is truly a diverse musician. With commissions as a classical composer, he continues to be involved in a wide range of projects and music. In 1989, he composed "New York Suite" for the Gerald Danovich Saxophone Quartet and "Aires Tropicales" for the Aspen Wind Quintet. In 1999, D'Rivera

participated in a series of programs in collaboration with Germany's Chamber Orchestra Werneck entitled "D'Rivera Meets Mozart". He continues to play with the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band and is an Artist in Residence at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For over a decade, Mr. D'Rivera has been the Artistic Director of the Festival International de Jazz en el Tambo in Uruguay. In 2003, Mr. D'Rivera received a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Music from the Berklee College of Music and made history when he became the first artist to win a Latin Grammy in both Classical and Latin Jazz categories. He has amassed seven Grammy awards to date and has over 30 solo albums. Additionally, his many solo performances include performances with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra. Internationally, he has performed with the London Royal Symphony, the Costa Rican National Symphony, and the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Paquito D'Rivera is a gifted writer and the author of his autobiography, "My Sax Life, a Memoir." In his autobiography, Mr. D'Rivera gives us a glimpse of the world through the eyes of a gifted jazz artist. Introduced to literature by his father, he also penned the novel "Oh, La Habana." In 2005 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

In January of 2005, Mr. D'Rivera celebrated 50 years in the music industry and 24 years in the United States. He continues to inspire jazz musicians in the U.S. and throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, during this Hispanic Heritage month, as we celebrate the valuable contributions Latinos make to this nation, we thank Mr. D'Rivera today for his brilliant work and tireless efforts to ensure that the Second Annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival continues to successfully bring jazz to the Nation's Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices of our young men and women who are serving in the U.S. military around the world. A dear lady from my district, Mrs. Linda Smith, has two sons serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. During Sunday school at Vineville Baptist Church a few weeks ago, she made a presentation to the class that I think summarizes the courage and bravery of our soldiers around the world. I wish to insert her comments into the RECORD, so that people across the country can be aware of the great work, not only of our men and women, but also of their families back home.

When Mrs. Ann asked me to speak to the class today, I told her that I may cry. I hope I don't, but if I do, I hope you will understand.

I want people to understand why our country is at war and why not only my sons, but others are willing to go and fight.

When people hear that I have two Marine sons being deployed to the same place in

Iraq, they often comment that they didn't think the government could do that. I tell them that my oldest son was a drill instructor at Parris Island. When his term was up, he re-enlisted for a second time and asked to be in the same unit with his little brother. I am not the only Marine mom who has more than one son going to war. There are many of us.

Another comment that I often hear is that people don't think the government should deploy servicemen more than once. I say to them, "This is their job." That is like saying to a fireman you have already put out one fire, . . . therefore you shouldn't have to go to another fire and put yourself in danger.

My sons and all of the other servicemen and women want America to stand behind them in this war. None of them enjoy leaving their wives and children, their moms and dads, or friends. Believe me, it is very hard. But they know that they must go. Islamic extremists are dangerous, and they must be dealt with now. Militant Islam is just as much of a danger to our country and the world as other radical fascist governments in the past have been . . . such as Hitler's Germany, Russia's Stalin, or Lenin or Karl Marx. Militant Islam no more cares about their religion but only wants total control. Traditional Islam seeks to teach people to live according to God's will. Militant Islam aspires to create a new order, even if it means rewriting Islamic law to fit their desires. They have tortured and killed many of their own people to gain control. This is evil and evil can only be dealt with by force.

So where does this leave us as Christians? I have thought a lot about that as I pray for my sons. I very seldom pray for my sons without opening my Bible and reading as I pray. It is very important that I not take my relationship with Jesus for granted. I am grateful that both of my sons have a relationship with him as well.

I have learned to pray for our enemy. I pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to the truth. Unfortunately, I fear that many of them are so far into their rebellion against God that they have allowed their hearts to be hardened and they may never come to repentance and salvation. This breaks my heart, because I know that it breaks God's heart. In Ezekiel, it says that God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked.

I pray for my nation. I love her and her people. I pray for a revival and that those of us who claim the name of Jesus would truly come back to our first love and burn with a desire to serve God.

I pray for Israel, God's precious people. I pray not only for my sons but for all of the troops. My oldest son, Clayton, is a platoon Sgt. He called home one night a few weeks before they left for Iraq. Sensing something was wrong, I asked him what was wrong. My big, burly, tough son broke down and cried, "I just want my men to come home. They are so young. I have trained them the best I can. I just want them to come home." My son is 26.

My youngest son, Mark, is 20. He wants to marry his childhood friend that he grew up with at church. One night when he was home for a weekend, we heard him crying in his bedroom. My heart breaks and I cry out to God.

I never forget to pray for our President. It angers me when people complain and slander him. He makes mistakes but supporting him with our prayers is what he needs, not murmuring against him.

So if you ask me how you can help or support our troops, I would say first, to give thanks to God and praise him. Love him with all of your heart. Thank him for what you have. Thank him for the sweet young

men and women he has called to defend our nation and fight for what is right. Ask God to reveal himself to our troops . . . that his glory would shine. That many would see his glory . . . our enemies as well as our troops. That they would worship him. It is then that we will have peace and our boys can come home.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing I can add. May God bless the brave men and women fighting around the world for our freedom, and their families at home. And may God continue to bless America.

HONORING ANDREA PICKENS OF CEDAR CREEK LAKE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Andrea Pickens, a model citizen of Cedar Creek Lake, Texas. Andrea has long dedicated herself to her community, supporting organizations including Mabank ISD, Trinity Valley Community College and the Youth Rodeo Organization. She has given her time and effort to her fellow citizens, particularly helping those most in need through civic work with the American Heart Association, the Council of the Blind, and one very dear to me personally, the American Cancer Society in Henderson County. Andrea also serves on the Board of Directors for the Kaufman Hospital District.

In addition to her dedicated hours of community service, Andrea also contributes immensely to improving the commerce and local economy of her community. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mabank Chamber of Commerce and the 1st State Bank of Athens while still finding the time to own and operate the new Tri-County Ford Dealership in Mabank with her husband Joe.

Andrea's work on behalf of the Cedar Creek Lake community has earned her a well deserved "Citizen of the Year" Award as well as a "Lifetime Service" Award. She has been an invaluable leader to the district, and through both word and example she has encouraged and fostered a communal mentality of public service and involvement.

Andrea Pickens has offered so much of her time and financial support to the causes that help to better our community. Her generosity and example is well known, and I thank her for being a blessing to the community.

On behalf of the citizens of Cedar Creek Lake and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize Andrea Pickens in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWIN ANTHONY ANDINO II

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Edwin Anthony (E.J.) Andino II of Culpeper, Virginia.

On Sunday, September 3, 2006, PFC Andino, a member of the United States Army 1st Battalion 77th Armored Division, died while responding to a mortar attack against a U.S. Army camp in Baghdad. He had been awarded the Army Achievement Medal and was recently promoted to the rank of Private First Class. PFC Andino volunteered for 18 months of combat service and had only been in Iraq for a month before he was killed. Posthumously, he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for valor.

PFC Andino is remembered as an American hero who joined the Army to serve his country and to make his family proud. We are grateful for his service to our Nation and for his ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedom. I ask that you join me in offering our sincere condolences to the family and friends of PFC Andino at this most difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 28, 2006, I could not be present for votes because I was in Michigan to attend the memorial service of the spouse of one of my longtime staffers.

House rollcall vote No. 495—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1045. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 496—I would have voted "no" on the motion to order the previous question on H. Res. 1046. Voting "no" would have allowed the House to take up the following 5 bills: A bill to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission; a bill to increase the minimum wage to 7.25 per hour; a bill to provide authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices for senior citizens and people with disabilities; a bill to repeal the massive cuts in college tuition assistance imposed by the Congress and to expand the size and availability of Pell Grants; a bill to roll back tax breaks for large petroleum companies and to invest those savings in alternative fuels to achieve energy independence.

House rollcall vote No. 497—I would have voted "no" on the passage of the Martial Law Rule, H. Res. 1046, bypassing House rules that ensure that Members of the House have adequate time to review legislation before voting on it.

House rollcall vote No. 498—I would have voted "no" on the previous question on H.